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TO:

Bob Komer

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REMARKS:

Still interested in evidence of the shifting power balance, or has the present political campaign satiated your interest?

Here, in any case, are a couple of interesting pieces from the revealing if irresponsible press of the keystone of the Far East.

I noted with interest the fruit of your interest in the image of the US abroad.

Hal

FROM:

Hal Saunders

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*Major Japanese
daily newspaper*

TOKYO SHIMBUN (2/3 Summary)

Oct. 8, 1960

British Labor Party and the West European Security System

The National Convention of the British Labor Party Oct. 8 adopted two resolutions calling for the unilateral renunciation of nuclear weapons, and voting down the Party's official policy of remaining in NATO by relying on the American atomic retaliatory power. This decision is quite incompatible with the policy of the British Government since it involves the withdrawal of Britain from NATO and the removal of American military bases in Britain.

Although the decision of the National Convention is not necessarily binding on the Party executives, there is no denying that it will weaken the diplomatic stand of Britain and may even damage the collective defense of West European nations. Moreover, this decision will exert a far-reaching effect on many other fields, in view of the position of the British Labor Party in the social democratic forces of West Europe.

It does not escape our attention that behind this decision of the National Convention is a growing tendency for neutralism among the British people, aided by the British anxiety about the vacuum in their national defense and the rapid development of American and Soviet ICH's. Today, it is considered necessary for the Western nations to set up a system of close collaboration in all fields -- political, economic and military -- in view of the strengthened Soviet diplomatic offensive against the West. Nevertheless, the absence of a definite national defense policy, which is based on the balance of power between the two camps, has produced, even among the politically mature British people, the idea of deserting NATO. This presents a problem not unrelated to us Japanese.

HF

Reasons Why the U.S. Was Defeated in Space Science
(1/3 of full article)

BUNGEI SHUNJU *- Japanese magazine*

October Issue, 1960

A talk between Satoshi WATANABE, professor at Columbia University, and Toshio AIJIMA, science critic.

AIJIMA: At present 14 artificial satellites are racing over our heads, but only one of them is Soviet, all the remainder being American. The United States shoots up many small ones, while the USSR launches a few big ones. What do you think of this?

WATANABE: Over in the States I heard this explanation: As they found that a nuclear warhead can be produced in small size, they saw no need of producing a big rocket, but they improved the precision of machines to be mounted in rockets. This, however, sounds like sour grapes.

AIJIMA: Does the U.S. lag behind the USSR?

WATANABE: Yes. I think the lag is decisive, for the U.S. cannot make a big rocket. She may catch up with the USSR in the end, but at present she cannot manufacture what the USSR does though the latter can manufacture what the U.S. does.

AIJIMA: Do you think it is attributable to the difference in national structure between a free nation and a totalitarian one which can spend an enormous amount of money for a special purpose by the supreme order of the Government?

WATANABE: I think so. It will be impossible for the United States to spend so much money on space science as the Soviet Union, even if the Democrats take over. Formerly the Americans believed that a totalitarian state is sterile for science, which grows only in the soil of freedom. Shocked at the marvellous development of Soviet science, however, some Americans have come to think that state control may serve the advancement of science. Nevertheless, I am of the opinion that freedom is preferable for the ultimate progress of science, though state control may be effective for a short period.

This may sound contrary to what I have said, but the United States is much advanced in techniques but is lagging in basic science and the contrary is the case with the Soviet Union. Both countries are now endeavoring to make up for their respective shortcomings.

AIJIMA: I hear that the U.S. high school textbooks on physics are being revised by the order of the Government.

WATANABE: The level of physics and mathematics at elementary and junior and senior high schools is much lower than that of Japan.

AIJIMA: Pravda carried an interesting letter from a reader, stating that he could see no sense in launching artificial satellites at the cost of the people's living. The reply to the letter was that the technique of launching rockets would serve in time to elevate the living standard of the people.

WATANABE: In the Soviet Union upper-class scientists and the top-notch party leaders are paid top salaries. What is interesting in this connection is that many of the juvenile delinquents in the Soviet Union, according to Izvestia, are the children of well-paid scientists.

AIJIMA: Aren't the American scientists contented?

WATANABE: No. The wife of a Soviet professor showed her home to the wife of an American professor. She said, "We have everything you have, even an electric refrigerator and an automobile. Besides, we have what you have not, that is, a maid." The Soviet scientists are aristocrats, well dressed and well mannered. They make a sharp contrast with their American counterparts. In the U.S. an assistant professor is poorly clad and lives in a dilapidated apartment house.

AIJIMA: What is the cause for the poor treatment of American scientists?

WATANABE: I think it is imputable to the social evaluation of their profession. In America the highest esteem is paid to businessmen. Ten years ago a number of high school students were questioned what they wanted to become in the future. Businessmen and actors topped the list and scholars ranked far below. Reflecting such a social psychology, able men do not become professors, most of whom are cranks not likely to succeed in ordinary society.

AIJIMA: In American newspapers such as the New York Times we often see a full-page advertisement wanting scientists, especially specialists in atomic science and science and electronics. Is their shortage so great?

WATANABE: Yes. Corporations and universities are scrambling for scientists.

AIJIMA: So they are securing able scientists like you from Japan. Recently EZAKI of Sony went over to the U.S.

WATANABE: I hope it will motivate the raise of salaries and research budgets in Japanese laboratories. It is through science or arts, not through politics, that the Japanese can have their abilities recognized by foreigners.

AIJIMA: Both the United States and the Soviet Union claim that they intend to utilize space science for peace, but it is said that their real aim is to exploit it for military purposes. Is it right?

WATANABE: Americans' political idea has practical and idealistic aspects unlike that of Japan. It is not right to see the practical side alone. It is true that Americans spend much money for space science, because it serves military interests. At the same time, however, it meets their lofty ideals.

AIJIMA: What do they think of the future fuel problem in the United States?

WATANABE: Power generation by nuclear fission will be followed by nuclear fusion. The raw material for nuclear fusion is boundless, since it is seawater. Should it be exhausted, solar energy will be harnessed.